

Grizzled Skipper (*Pyrgus malvae*)

Areas and status: Widespread in central southern England; patchily distributed in Wales and south-western and eastern England. Significant declines in distribution (-53%) and abundance (-37%) 1976-2014.

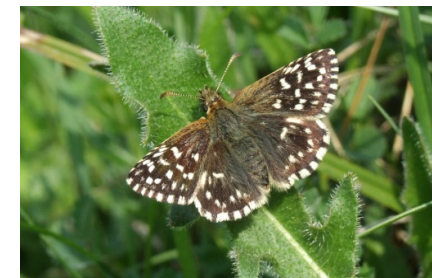
Woodland type: Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, PAWS, Scrub.

Preferred habitat niches: Glades, rides, edges, coppice, clear-fell, disturbed ground and scrub mosaic. Breeds mainly on Agrimony, Creeping Cinquefoil and Wild Strawberry; favours sparsely vegetated habitats, particularly herb-rich grasslands with areas of short sward (<10cm) and patches of bare ground. Taller vegetation is required for shelter and roosting.

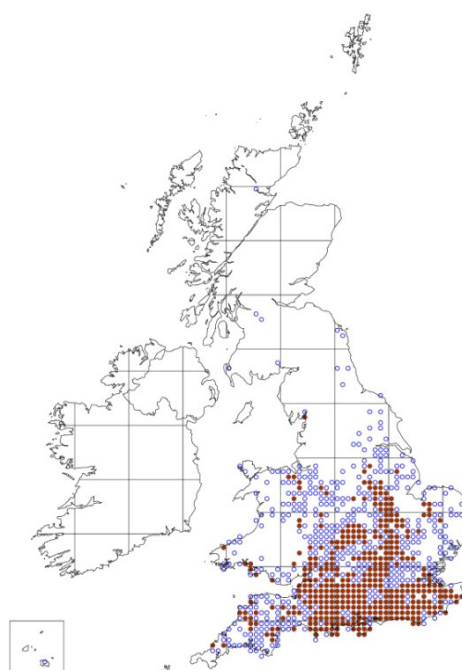
Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Overshading and scrubbing up of glades, rides and other open areas
- Abandonment of coppicing and felling leading to loss of canopy gaps
- Re-stocking of woodland clearings and tree planting of open areas adjacent to woodlands
- Excessive damage to ride habitat by timber extraction vehicles
- Intensive management of rides and clearings, such as repeated mowing (e.g. more than once a year) leading to grassy swards and loss of larval food plants
- Changes in agricultural management of unimproved grasslands close to woodlands (e.g. overgrazing, undergrazing and conversion to improved grassland/arable)
- Planting, scrubbing up and redevelopment of brownfield habitat (e.g. railway lines, waste ground and quarries) within and close to woodlands
- Habitat fragmentation and loss of connectivity leading to isolation of surviving populations

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Rides, Glades	Cut rides in 3 zones: 1 regularly for access, 2 on a 4-7 yr rotation & 3 on an 8-20 yr rotation. Scarify rides/glades to create shorter vegetation with patches of bare ground; do not scarify whole ride/glade at once. Widen and enlarge if necessary; widths should be >1.5 times the height of nearby trees; scallop ride edges to create sheltered conditions. Creating new east-west rides and box junctions within woods can be valuable especially when linking breeding areas.
Rotational coppice	Cut coupes (20x20m to 30x30m) on short rotations (<12yrs). Rotations >12 yrs if coppice re-growth slow or area of coppice woodland is large. Coppice adjacent coupes or locate coupes beside wide rides and glades.
Small group clear-fell	Clear-fell (20x20m to 40x40m) areas on 25-40yrs cycles. Fell adjacent coupes or beside wide rides and glades.
PAWS	In plantations, retain scrub and open grassland mosaic; enlarge rides and glades as necessary. Restoration offers opportunities if non-native trees are cleared to provide extensive areas for natural regeneration.
Scrub	Retain patches of scattered, young scrub. Cut on rotation when cover exceeds 20% by area
Grazing	Where livestock/deer are having a negative impact on coppice re-growth, erect fencing where grazing is having a negative impact on coppice re-growth. Deer control may also be required.
Connectivity	Manage woodlands on a landscape-scale by widening rides to connect clearings within woods and link up with adjacent or nearby woods. Create/maintain areas of unimproved grasslands, scrub mosaic, brownfield sites etc between woods a few km apart.



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○ Pre 2005
● 2005 – 2014
Source: Butterfly Conservation